

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04378 311857Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----025879 311858Z /41
O 311505Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9008
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4378

STADIS//////////

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, US, IS, EGY
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 192136

1. HAVE TAKEN INFORMAL SOUNDING REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF
YOUR VISITING SYRIA IN AUGUST 12-15 TIME FRAME WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY AMERICAN DIRECTOR SIAGE. HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS TO
ASK WHETHER YOU WOULD BE COMING TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS
OR AS PART OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT. I
SAID YOUR MESSAGE HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC. RECALLED
TO HIM THAT WHEN WE HAD DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE ATHERTON
VISIT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, SYRIA'S REPLY HAD REFERRED
SPECIFICALLY TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGIONAL ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HAVING JURISDICTION OVER SYRIAN-US AFFAIRS AND
ATHERTON'S EXCLUSIVE ME PEACE NEGOTIATION ROLE. WE THEN
SECRET

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DISCUSSED ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH
YOU MIGHT HIGHLIGHT DURING A VISIT, INCLUDING
POSSIBILITY OF YOUR SIGNING A \$20 MILLION AID/CIP LOAN
WHICH IS NOW ABOUT READY FOR SIGNATURE, AS WELL AS THE
AGREED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CULTURAL
ACCORD ON WHICH THE US AND SYRIA ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT.

29 SIAGE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH FONMIN AND PRESIDENCY
AND GIVE US A REPLY AS SOON AS HE COULD.
PELLETREAU

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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